CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name:	Clark Canyon Ranch Stream Restoration Project
Proposed Implementation Date:	December 2012
Proponent:	Clark Canyon Ranch
Location:	Section 13,& 24 Township 12 South – Range 10 West
County:	Beaverhead County

I. TYPE AND PURPOSE OF ACTION

Proponent proposes to restore and enhance an unnamed spring creek that flows into the Red Rock River. The majority of the project will occur on deeded property approximately 14,569 feet of the stream is on private land with approximately1,931 feet of the stream on state land in Sections 13 & 24, T12S – R 10W near Kidd, MT. Work will include bank stabilization, restoring meanders, removing silted flats, placing gravel for spawning and rearing beds, and the removal and moving of a head gate to a deeded ditch on state land.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED:

Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.

Matt Jaeger, DFWP Fisheries Biologist
Patrick Rennie, DNRC Archeologist
Wallace Condon
NRIS

2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:

Beaverhead Conservation District, 310 permit
Army Corps of Engineers,
DFWP 124 permit

3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

A. Action Alternative, Allow Stream Restoration of no name spring creek to occur on state land.

B. No Action Alternative, Deny stream restoration work to occur on state land.

III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE:

Consider the presence of fragile, compactable or unstable soils. Identify unusual geologic features. Specify any special reclamation considerations. Identify any cumulative impacts to soils.

USDA – NRCS soil surveys are not available for these tracts. The majority of the tracts are on a bench between the I-15 Freeway and a no name spring creek that flows into the Red Rock River near Kidd, MT. Observation of

materials near the state land that had been excavated for the construction of a pond included gravel, gravely loams, silty loams with layers of clay.

5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION:
Identify important surface or groundwater resources. Consider the potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality. Identify cumulative effects to water resources.

Project is designed to improve water quality for fish and wildlife benefit, especially fish spawning and rearing habitat. No long term degradation or cumulative effects to water quality are expected if this project is allowed to occur. The project should improve water quality issues and fisheries habitat to the no name stream and the Red Rock River over the long term.

6. AIR QUALITY:
What pollutants or particulate would be produced? Identify air quality regulations or zones (e.g. Class I air shed) the project would influence. Identify cumulative effects to air quality.

This project is not anticipated to have any long term or cumulative impacts to air quality or produce any significant air quality problems.

7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY:
What changes would the action cause to vegetative communities? Consider rare plants or cover types that would be affected. Identify cumulative effects to vegetation.

Vegetative cover on these tracts is mostly native rangeland. Species composition is dominated by grasses which include Blue Bunch Wheat grass, winter fat, thread leaf sedge, needle and thread grass. Sub-dominate species include various forbs and shrubs. The vegetation near the no name creek is abandoned irrigated hay ground (Sec 13 lease # 9467, and Sec 24 lease # 9468). Introduced species near the creek include smooth brome and Kentucky blue grass, and the natives include tall marsh grass, muhley, beaked sedge and other sedges.

8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS:
Consider substantial habitat values and use of the area by wildlife, birds or fish. Identify cumulative effects to fish and wildlife.

The area is not considered critical wildlife habitat. However, these tracts provide habitat for a variety of animal species (deer, elk, waterfowl, songbirds, muskrats, and ground squirrels), predators (coyote, fox & badger), other non-game mammals, raptors and various songbirds. The proposal does not include any land use change which would yield changes to the wildlife habitat. The area supports a large amount of waterfowl and this proposal should not affect this habitat. The proposed action will not impact wildlife forage, cover, or traveling corridors. Nor will this action change the juxtaposition of wildlife forage, water, or hiding and thermal cover so no long term or cumulative impacts are anticipated if the action alternative is chosen.

9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES:
Consider any federally listed threatened or endangered species or habitat identified in the project area. Determine effects to wetlands. Consider Sensitive Species or Species of special concern. Identify cumulative effects to these species and their habitat.

No specific on-site observations of Threatened or Endangered species have been recorded and no important habitat for endangered species has been identified on the state lands. A search of Natural Heritage data through NRIS was conducted and Greater Sage Grouse and Gray wolf, Bald Eagle, Black Tailed Jack Rabbit and Ferruginous Hawk may use these tracts of ground however the restoration work will be of short duration.

The proposal does not include any activities which would alter any habitat, so no long term or cumulative effects are expected if the action alternative is chosen.

10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES:
Identify and determine effects to historical, archaeological or paleontological resources.

No cultural resources have been documented on either state parcel. Chuck Maddox walked the stream corridor and didn't find any cultural resources. If the action alternative is chosen the LUL will have the contractor stop any work in progress and contact the DNRC prior to continuing their work if cultural resources are found during the restoration work.

11. AESTHETICS:
Determine if the project is located on a prominent topographic feature, or may be visible from populated or scenic areas. What level of noise, light or visual change would be produced? Identify cumulative effects to aesthetics.

These tracts are located in a foothill agricultural area and do not provide any unique scenic qualities that's not provided by adjacent private land. The proposal does not include any long term on-the-ground activities, so there would be no change to the aesthetics in either alternative.

12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY:
Determine the amount of limited resources the project would require. Identify other activities nearby that the project would affect. Identify cumulative effects to environmental resources.

The action alternative may enhance fish spawning and rearing habitat in the no name creek and should help decrease the amount of sediment that enters Red Rock River.

13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA:
List other studies, plans or projects on this tract. Determine cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of current private, state or federal actions in the analysis area, and from future proposed state actions in the analysis area that are under MEPA review (scoped) or permitting review by any state agency.

The tracts that the stream runs through are currently being considered for sale under the state's Land Banking program. Preliminary approval of the sale of these tracts is currently being considered.

IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

- *RESOURCES potentially impacted are listed on the form, followed by common issues that would be considered.*
- *Explain POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIONS following each resource heading.*
- *Enter "NONE" If no impacts are identified or the resource is not present.*

14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY:
Identify any health and safety risks posed by the project.

There aren't any human health or safety issues identified by implementing this project.

15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION:
Identify how the project would add to or alter these activities.

As proposed the project will not alter or change the commercial and agricultural production on the state tracts.

16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT:
Estimate the number of jobs the project would create, move or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to the employment market.

The proposal will not alter the quantity and distribution of employment in and around Dillon and Lima, MT.

17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES:
Estimate tax revenue the project would create or eliminate. Identify cumulative effects to taxes and revenue.

The proposal will have no effects on the local or state tax base and revenues generated.

18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES:
Estimate increases in traffic and changes to traffic patterns. What changes would be needed to fire protection, police, schools, etc.? Identify cumulative effects of this and other projects on government services.

No long term or cumulative effects for the demand of government services are anticipated from this proposal.

19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS:
List State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, and other zoning or management plans, and identify how they would affect this project.

There aren't any local government zoning or management plans in place in this area of Beaverhead County that I am aware of at this time.

20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES:
Identify any wilderness or recreational areas nearby or access routes through this tract. Determine the effects of the project on recreational potential within the tract. Identify cumulative effects to recreational and wilderness activities.

The only access to these state parcels of land is from the I-15 interstate; otherwise they are land locked by private property. The proposal will not affect any wilderness or recreational activities or values.

21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING:
Estimate population changes and additional housing the project would require. Identify cumulative effects to population and housing.

No effects.

22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES:
Identify potential disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities.

No effects.

23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY:
How would the action affect any unique quality of the area?

No effects.

24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES:
Estimate the return to the trust. Include appropriate economic analysis. Identify potential future uses for the analysis area other than existing management. Identify cumulative economic and social effects likely to occur as a result of the proposed action.

The proposal will generate a $150.00 land use license fee for the trust and enhance the no name stream that runs through the state land.

EA Checklist Prepared By:	**Name:**	Timothy Egan	**Date:**	12/7/12
	Title:	Dillon Unit Manager		

V. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

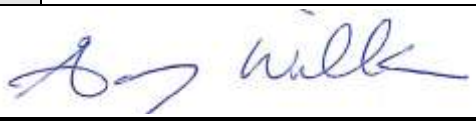
Issue land Use License to allow stream restoration work on portions of the stream traversing the state lands.

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Significant impacts are not anticipated as a result of the proposed activity on state land. The portion of the project on state land is a small percentage of the overall project and inclusion of the state parcel is will not substantially change the project. The proposal is designed to improve fisheries habitat and will be conducted under conditions and requirements after review by stream regulatory agencies (Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Conservation District. Permits must be acquired prior to issuance of the license and conditions of the permits must be adhered to.

27. NEED FOR FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

[ ]	EIS	[ ]	More Detailed EA	[X]	No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:	**Name:**	Garry Williams		
	Title:	Area Manager Central Land Office		
Signature:			**Date**:	12/11/2012

Proposed Stream Restoration Project by Clark Canyon Ranch

South of Dillon, Montana
East of I-15, Near Kidd Exit

1:3,682

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

Proposed Stream Project
Approx. 2000 Feet